to retiring rooms RCC shelter on PF no. 4&5, CC aprons, improvement to water supply arrangements & IVRS are in progress. At **Ernakulum** Junction, works like provision of IVRS, raising of platforms, construction of new FOB, CC apron, construction of platform no. 6, provision of LED board for displaying information on train running & provision of food plaza are in progress. At **Kollam Junction**, works of provision of IVRS, provision of second class waiting room, provision of platform no. 7&8, provision of CC apron, replacement of corroded pipe lines and improvements to water supply arrangements, provision of new FOB and provision of Police Post are in progress.

Utilization of Waste land by the Railways

1041. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have prepared schemes to utilize waste land along rail tracks to generate funds for completion of pending projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new ventures would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Railways do not have any waste land. The land along the track is required by Railways for maintenance/operational use.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Unmanned level crossings in Punjab

†1042. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that train accidents take place frequently due to unmanning of those level crossings; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what is the planning of Government to make these level crossings manned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There are 998 numbers of 'C' class unmanned level crossings in Punjab.

(b) No, Sir. Accidents at unmanned level crossings occur mainly due to the negligence of the road users who fail to follow the road signs and the rules and stipulations contained in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 for safe crossing of level crossings.

(c) As per rules, cost of manning of existing unmanned level crossing necessitated due to increase in the volume of the traffic is to be borne by the State Govt. However, considering the serious consequences of the accidents at unmanned level crossing, Railway has decided to man 4449 unmanned level crossings at its own cost. Out of 4449, 1810 unmanned level crossings have been sanctioned for manning from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. Manning of 335 unmanned level crossings have also been proposed for sanction in the Railway Budget 2002-2003. Planning of the works is Railway-Zone-wise and not State-Wise. The Zone-wise statistics of level crossings planned/ sanctioned for manning during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 over Northern Railway, which cover State of Punjab, are as under:—

RAILWAY	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
NORTHERN	143	80	14

In addition to this, 11 unmanned level crossings have also been proposed for manning over Northern Railway in the Railway Budget 2002-2003.